

February 2012



## All Day Meeting with Davy Wotton

Just a reminder the all day meeting with Davy Wotton is coming up on Saturday, February 18.

Davy has fly fished in 40 counties, is a world recognized author, a fly fishing guide, a world class fly fishing instructor, fly tier and has produced several DVD's on fly fishing and tying. But this only begins to tell you about Davy, check out his web site at [www.davywotton.com](http://www.davywotton.com) for additional information.

The meeting will be held at the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 North New Ballas Road between Olive and Ladue Roads.

The agenda is as follows:

- 9:00 A.M. Start
  1. Rods/reels/lines
  2. Understanding the mechanics of dead drift nymph fishing
  3. Midge fishing techniques
- Break for lunch at noon (1 hour on our own)
- 1:00 P.M. Meeting continues
  4. Casting techniques
  5. Wet fly fishing
- Conclude around 3:30 P.M.

Davy says he will likely add more within these categories, if time permits.

We will also be having a raffle.

The meeting is free to all members of the Ozark Fly Fishers and \$10 for non members. Non members can join Saturday and apply the \$10 to the cost of their membership.

Please join us; you don't want to miss this one.

**No Thursday meeting in February.**

## Steelhead Fishing Trip

Have you always wanted to go steelhead fishing or have you been and want to go again? Several members of Ozark Flyfishers are traveling to Michigan in April and have space available on a steelhead fishing trip to the Muskegon River. It is a guided trip which means the guides provide tackle and flies and cook lunch on the river. The dates are April 26 through April 28 with lodging at Riverside Resort in Croton Michigan on the banks of the Muskegon River.

If you are interested, contact Bill Todd at 618-281-4259 or email [billandlindatodd@hotmail.com](mailto:billandlindatodd@hotmail.com)

## President's Message

By Malcolm Royse

*"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."* John Buchan

This is a fishing club. That seems to be the guiding idea that began this club, by the founders. Those people started a fishing club 41 years ago, with some varied ideas and goals. I have had many long discussions with members who were here near the beginning and the stories are wonderful. I hope to bring some of these stories to you as time goes on, but know that we have a colorful history. We honored 6 of those Legends at this last banquet and will be giving you their stories in the newsletter this year. The Legends were John Buckley, Nelson Redick, Jerry Clark, Caesar Carnaghi, Marty King, and Jerry Jarosik. These people gave years to Ozark Fly Fishers and will always be a great part of our history.

I gave out two Presidents Awards – one to Scott Darrough and one to Ron Scott. Scott has made the Stream Team Outing a wonderful learning and sharing event. He has given hundreds of hours to cleaning and monitoring our streams, always with great joy and a smile. Ron was asked to step up and take over as web master and has given many hours to the club's website. These are only two of the many that give so much to the good of the club, the outdoors, and to fly fishing.

I was also able to recognize a driving force of the Ozark Fly Fishers, Bob Temper, with the Marty King Award. This is the highest award Ozark Fly Fishers gives out, and Bob is only the third person to receive it in 41 years. He has led this club as President, Educator, and Conservationist. I have been schooled and mentored by Bob, as have so many in our club. The work he has done in the area of conservation has set Ozark Fly Fishers as a force and a voice in the state of Missouri, for all things to do with our waterways.

I would like to thank all of you who made this years' banquet a great success. There were those who set everything up and those that made sure it ran well. There was sharing from everyone who came and our club is now in a great position to provide the programs we all have come to expect and enjoy. Lastly, Bob Zagar did a tremendous job putting all the pieces in place; he made sure no stone was left unturned.

There are many activities coming up in rapid order; the all day event with Davy Wotton, February 18; movie night at the Tivoli Theater, March 22; Marlin's Tie In, March 31; and Triva Night, April 14. I hope you can make them all.

Thanks to all of you, for all you do, to make this a great fishing club. "See you on the river."

## Casting Tip

by: Bill Armon

### Fly lines – Cores and Coatings

Taper design and line weight are the primary aspects of fly lines but the coatings and cores make up the other essential elements.

The core of the line is responsible for the strength of the line, (it "best" not break before your leader does). This means it must be light enough to float and to cast while still having significant tensile strength, (e.g. 1 wt). Next the core is what gives the line its stiffness and its stretch. Too stiff in cold weather, the line forms coils and will not want to pass through the guides. Too soft in the warm tropical water and the line will not form a good loop, (like casting a noodle). The stretch a line has correlates to how much memory it will have and therefore the tendency to coil.

The coating is responsible for mass to density ratio and getting the correct line weight.. Density determines how high the line floats or how fast it sinks. A floating line must be lighter than water. This often involves making the line larger without adding weight. However, the larger the line the more wind resistance when casting. The new hydrophobic coatings actually repel water from lines – this has helped with the problem of smaller diameter lines that maintain their floating capabilities.

To get a line to sink lead or tungsten powder is added to the coating. Tungsten is more expensive but is friendlier to our ecosystems. The diameter of the line is intentionally kept small so the line will sink better, which adds to their castability by decreasing wind resistance.

The pigment that is used in the coatings determines visibility. Both the caster and the fish can see a bright line easier.

The important part of this tip is - buy a line with the taper you need, the core you need and the coating you need, in the correct line weight for the rod you are casting. Then put on the best leader for the fishing conditions and go fish! Easy?

Casting instruction should start again in March

## Outings

By Mark Thalhammer

### The Spring Chili Tie – In 3/31

The Spring Chili Tie--In at Marlin's clubhouse will be on March 31st. The clubhouse is located at: Countrylane Woods II, 851 Country Stone Dr., Manchester, 63021. Get to your vises and begin practicing your favorite flies for the New Year. The Spring Chili Tie-In is your chance to show off your very best flies. It is also one of your best opportunities to learn new tricks and how to tie the fly that will fool a big-one in the clear cold waters of Missouri spring creeks. Don't forget to bring your rods; you can get in a little casting practice and pick up some pointers.

Volunteers are needed to bring a dish/pot of your favorite recipe, chili or otherwise. Any food contribution will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me so that I can coordinate the items for a well rounded offering and a delectable variety of tangy hot and cold foods. Thanks for your help.

Contact Mark Thalhammer 636-928-6242 or Mike Ott 314-435-5097

### Montauk Summer Outing 5/18 - 5/20

Please join us for a great weekend of fishing, tying and lying. The club will have its annual Montauk outing the weekend of May 18-20th. We have 18 motel rooms and two cabins reserved for Friday and Saturday night departing on Sunday. All rooms include two double beds and TV. We will have the Searcy room available for tying and we will be served a gastronomic delight on Saturday night.

Rates include taxes and gratuity. Rooms: \$155.00 for double occupancy Meals: \$17.00 per person

I NEED YOUR CHECK IN HAND BY NO LATER THAN MAY 8<sup>th</sup>. Please make check payable to Ozark Fly Fishers and mail to: Mark Thalhammer, 27 Morning Wind Ct., St. Charles, MO 63304, include your email address so that I can send a confirmation.

## Database Report to Members

By Dave Haas

We welcome the following new members:

Last reported membership on 1-12-2012	283
New memberships since 1-12-2012	5
Former members rejoining since 1-12-2012	<u>2</u>
Total memberships as of 2-9-2012	290
A year ago	305
Annual gain or (loss)	(22) (7.2%)

Chris & Tara Carmaghi Imperial, MO	Thomas Welby St. Louis, MO
Pete & Karla Carnaghi St. Charles, MO	Almus "Vir!" & Reba F. Williams Belleville, IL
Michael H. Hickey & Family Crestwood, MO	

## 2012 Programs

February 18	All day meeting	Davy Wotton
March 22	Fly Fishing Film Tour	Tivoli Theater, Delmar Loop
April 26	David Barron	Spring Creek trout on the waters of Southwest Wisconsin
May 24	TBA	
June 28	BBQ and casting	Tillis Park
July 26	TBA	
August 23	Alex Bell	Fly Fishing the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina
September 27	TBA	
October 25	TBA	
November	No Meeting	
December 6	Christmas exchange and fly tying	
January 19, 2013	Annual Banquet	

## Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

### Rene' Harrops' Baetis Nymph

It really is a depressing day when you can roam around your favorite fly shop for an hour and cannot put together a Christmas list. What I did find was a whole new crop of books I do not have... but which ones? Well I made a list, and my significant other was very good to me. One of my new favorites is Rene' Harrops' "Learning From The Water". While I have not actually *read* it yet, I am tying several of his patters and have a number of them ready for the FYAO and the spring season. I'm always looking for a new BWO pattern, and this one is pretty clean and simple with just a little twist – a CDC wingcase. Remember to keep it sparse.

Hook: TMC 200R Size 18-22

Thread: 12/0 Olive or Brown

Tail: Lemon Wood Duck

Abdomen: Brown Olive Squirrel Dubbing

Ribbing: Fine Copper Wire

Wing Case: Natural Dun CDC

Legs: Brown Partridge

Thorax: Brown Olive Squirrel Dubbing



- 1) Secure hook in vise, start thread around the thorax, and wrap back to about the hook point. Tie in 4-6 wood duck fibers as a tail.
- 2) Tie in copper wire ribbing.
- 3) Dub a tight sparse body tapering up to the thorax.
- 4) Counter-wrap the ribbing forward and tie off at thorax.
- 5) Using one or two CDC feathers, pull the tips together and tie them in at the thorax extending out the back.
- 6) Dub a thorax continuing the taper from the body to the head.
- 7) Pull several fibers from the brown partridge feather and tie in as legs from the front of the thorax extending just to the junction of the body. Repeat for other side.
- 8) Pull CDC feathers forward to form a wing case and tie off.
- 9) Whip finish.

The CDC is light and holds lots of air bubbles so it fishes shallow. This is a great dropper behind a parachute BWO when fishing shallow, as a dropper behind a Barr's emerger for fishing deeper, or as a lead fly above a jujubee or other midge.

## March Meeting

MARCH 22, 2012

Our March meeting will be at the Tivoli Theatre on the Delmar Loop, 6350 Delmar Blvd. When we found out that the Fly Fishing Film Tour was in town for the evening we decided to join in and have the meeting at the Tivoli. Everyone I talked to that attended last year really enjoyed the show. This year's show is all new.

Doors open at 6:30 P.M.

Discounted tickets are available at Tommy Hargrove's and Feather-Craft. Discounted tickets are \$12 and \$15 dollars at the door. But don't wait, The Tivoli sold out last year. (I believe the larger theater has been reserved this year).

All ticket holders will be entered to win a trip to Idaho's South Fork Lodge, plus drawings from the sponsors.

Check out their web site, [www.flyfilmtour.com](http://www.flyfilmtour.com)

## Ozark Fly Fishers Banquet Wrap Up

The 2012 banquet was a great success, with over 140 in attendance!

The income from the live auction with Johnny Chamness along with many donations for the silent auction helped to put us on a sound financial footing for the year.

The success was due to the efforts of a number of dedicated members, too many to list here. You know who you are, thank you.

Also thanks to all who donated to the auction. A partial list of major donors is included elsewhere in this newsletter. Again, we had so many members that stepped up with donations we could not list them in the newsletter.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR JANUARY 19, 2013. – NEW VENUE

Watch for additional information on the new venue. Your committee has already started planning. Let us know if you have suggestions or ideas. This is your banquet; we want to make it an enjoyable and fun experience.

## Ways and Means.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the banquet in January. Those who were there know that there were handcrafted items, books, pictures, and any type of fishing equipment you can imagine. If you weren't there, hope to see you next year. I did want to highlight the vendors who generously contributed to the event. If you have a need for equipment, a great fishing trip, or just something to relax with, please consider these folks who are only in business to serve us.

Thanks to:

River Run Outfitters, Branson, MO, Outfitter -- [www.riverrunoutfitters.com](http://www.riverrunoutfitters.com)

White Mule Bed and Breakfast, Owensville, MO, Bed and Breakfast -- [www.whitemulebnb.com](http://www.whitemulebnb.com)

Feathercraft, St Louis, MO, Equipment -- [www.feathercraft.com](http://www.feathercraft.com)

ADG Manufacturing, Aurora, CO, Fly rods – [www.titaniumflyrods.com](http://www.titaniumflyrods.com)

T. Hargrove, St. Louis, MO, Equipment – [www.thargrove.com](http://www.thargrove.com)

Sam Potter, Rolla, MO, Guided trips and casting lessons – [www.tightline.biz](http://www.tightline.biz)

Tim Wade, North Fork Anglers, Outfitter – [www.northforkanglers.com](http://www.northforkanglers.com)

George Roberts, Inc., Fly tying equipment -- [www.FlytyingFurniture.com](http://www.FlytyingFurniture.com)

Steve Grzyb, Eureka, MO, Fine art -- [www.artbygrzyb.com](http://www.artbygrzyb.com)

Auction Merchandise Source, Cindy Colgrove, Sports and Entertainment Memorabilia for charity fundraising – [www.amshelpspeople.com](http://www.amshelpspeople.com)

## Treasurer's Overview 2011-2012

2011 was a financially challenging year for Ozark Fly Fishers. For the first time in several years OFF had more recurring expenses than we had current income. The deficit was about \$2,500, and reduced our reserve savings. The short-fall was, in large part, due to our decline in planned income from our major fund raisers. We also saw a slight decline in membership dues, as had been the case for several prior years. The year-end balances of our various cash accounts totaled about \$22,200.

But 2012 will likely follow a more positive story. The OFF Board of Directors worked hard in the fall of 2011 to come up with a realistic proposed budget that would break-even for 2012, while still offering our members high quality programs and activities. The Board agreed that membership revenues will be devoted primarily to membership programs and activities, serving the broadest group of members possible. The Board also initiated a plan to secure an independent source of funds called the "Supporting Member Program". This program will provide funds for 3<sup>rd</sup> party groups that work to fulfill purposes and missions similar to OFF's, rather than support those causes with membership revenues.

Finally: While our status as a 501(c)3 charitable organization is unfolding slower than we had hoped, we remain optimistic that we will ultimately receive IRS approval. Approval, if and when we receive it, allow our supporters the benefit of charitable deductions for qualifying contributions made after January 15, 2010.

Our financial success in 2012 will depend on fiscal discipline and a return of our fund raisers to the positive results of previous years. The participation at this Annual Banquet is a positive and hopeful sign for success in 2012.

*Annual Ozark Fly Fishers*

# Trivia Night

April 14, 2012, 7 pm

Wild Acres Community Center

Overland, MO

Put together a table of 8 of smartest people you know, throw in lots of snacks and join us for an evening of great fun. There will be raffles and cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams.

The cost is \$160/table or \$20/person.

Please contact Malcolm Royse to sign up at (636)329-1504 or at [doorman709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:doorman709@sbcglobal.net)

# Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc.

## Supporting Member Program

The Board of Directors of Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc. has established a specific method to raise funds to be spent supporting 3<sup>rd</sup> party groups and causes who are impacting the local and regional fly-fishing community. The Board believes that many regular members will be willing to make this additional contribution because they have a strong desire to assure that OFF is able to continue to make donations and contributions to these 3<sup>rd</sup> party groups and causes.

Those who contribute will be recognized regularly in the monthly newsletter for their support. Those in the Silver and Golden Trout categories will receive a pin or other personal recognition each year.

### SUPPORTING MEMBER PROGRAM

OZARK FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. BOX 440181

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-4181

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING MEMBER	SILVER TROUT	GOLDEN TROUT
SUPPORTER	SUPPORTER	
Less than \$50 _____	\$50 or more _____	\$100 or more _____

(Make check payable to Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc.)

### SUPPORTING MEMBER PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

2011

Supporting	Silver Trout	Golden Trout
<u>Members</u>	<u>Supporters</u>	<u>Supporters</u>

Steven & Susan Parsons	Mark & Mary Jo Thalhammer	Malcolm Royce
Jim & Annie Morrison	Larry & Donna Carli	

As of February 2012

Bob & Louann Zagar	Jim & Annie Morrison	Malcolm Royce
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## Stream Team 31

### 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Clean Stream August 25, 2012

Come and take part in one of the oldest and largest stream clean-up traditions in the nation.

In the early years of the club (72-73), we participated in this event. Last year saw a renewed interest as a sizable group turned out in force. This year Stream Team # 31 will once again request your help. Not only is this a fun event but it is also a great way to give back to the resources that we use.

Mark this date on your calendar and watch the newsletter and website for future details.

In the mean time if you have questions contact Scott Darrough at 314-560-1335 or [swdarrough@yahoo.com](mailto:swdarrough@yahoo.com)

### Fly Donation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Quality Monitoring Outing

Last year we asked that each member of the OFF donate a fly for use in the WQM outing raffle. What resulted was a large collection of flies, winner take all. The raffle was quite successful with the proceeds going to the club.

This year we are again asking that each member donate one new "unused" fly. Regardless of your tying ability, amateur or professional, it does not matter. Whether fresh or salt, warm or cold, wet or dry, you decide on the pattern. Surprise us!

We will begin taking these fly donations on January 21, (at the banquet). Your fly will be affixed to a printed card that will have a space for the name of the pattern as well as the name of the tier. These cards will be displayed on a board. If you plan to attend the banquet, please bring a fly donation with you. If you are not attending then bring your donation to the upcoming "All Day" or general membership meetings, where the fly board will also be displayed. Note that we will be accepting these donations up to the day of the raffle.

Please join in the fun and help make this raffle even more successful than it was last year.

If you have any questions about the fly donation, please contact Scott Darrough at: 314-560-1335 or [swdarrough@yahoo.com](mailto:swdarrough@yahoo.com)

### Current River WQM and Anglers' Introductory Workshop

April 27 & 28, 2012 - Montauk State Park

Recently our club has been recalling its history. One small piece of this history was the formation of Stream Team's Anglers' Introductory Water Quality Monitoring Workshop. The "Anglers'" workshop was originally created for Ozark Fly Fishers. We were the first angling organization in the state to participate in these classes. This workshop takes place over the course of two days. On the first day, morning offers time to fish with the afternoon allocated to class time. The schedule reverses on the second day. This particular workshop is not always offered, but will be this year. This is a great way to take the introductory, as numerous OFF members have.

Our Current River Team #31 has been asked to lend a hand with this workshop, and we are glad to oblige. The training will conclude early afternoon on the second day. At that time all will be free to do as they wish, with fishing as an option. With the conclusion of the workshop, a lunch break will follow. After lunch Ozark will begin a WQM at our Site #1 (Tan Vat Access). All OFF members and non-members (bring someone) are invited. Stream Team training is not a prerequisite to attend. Our team will have trained individuals on site to assist and answer questions to the best of their abilities. An invitation will also be extended to all who attended the workshop, thus providing a refresher / review for anyone completing their intro training. This will be a complete monitoring covering macroinvertebrates, stream discharge, visual survey and water chemistry. It will also be "hands on" for those that wish to participate.

Note that this workshop is offered state-wide to anyone wanting to attend. If you are interested, it is recommended that you enroll soon. Attendance is limited to 30 people. These intro classes fill up quickly, - "Anglers" or otherwise. Let us fill this workshop up with Ozark Fly Fishers. It will be as interesting as it will be fun!

The details:

Friday, April 27 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 28 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Register by Wednesday, April 11 - (<http://www.mostreamteam.org/>) or contact Susan Higgins at 573-526-1002

Workshop will be held at Montauk State Park.

Remember to bring: Waders, hat, sunscreen, towel and change of clothes (in the event that you take an unexpected dip). A barbeque lunch might be provided - ?

If you plan to attend or have any questions please contact:

Scott Darrough at 314-560-1335 or swdarrough@yahoo.com

## Project Healing Waters

The Ozark Fly Fishers continue to generously support Project Healing Waters and make a real difference in the lives of those who've served. Something I enjoy is the constant influx of new veterans into the program. It's priceless see their faces light up when they begin to get the hang of casting or when they show-off a fly they've tied! Please feel free to join us Monday nights at 6M (except federal holidays) at the Jefferson Barracks VA hospital gym. Many Ozark members including Jim Wallace, Jim Gera, Rich Pelletier, Terry Pierce and myself are regulars and would be glad to give you a lift.

## Mill Creek

Exciting new residents have been spotted in Mill Creek recently: a black bear and a mountain lion. The latter likely followed the river bottoms of the Missouri and Gasconade into the Mill Creek Valley. As a bonus, a resident of nearby Newburg, provided documentation of a Snowy Owl. On the conservation front, The Mill Creek Watershed Coalition is leveraging a Timber Stewardship Program, facilitated by the Forest Service. This will provide an ongoing source of funding for conservation projects including fish and habitat improvement. A series of grants are being pursued that will focus on conservation planning, implementation and education. A series of educational tools, including website, brochures and a documentary film, are in the planning phase. ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO TIE A MERALD DRAGONFLY! The real deal looks like this: These will be judged by Davy Wotton at the FEBRUARY meeting. The "chosen" Dragonfly will be used in Mill Creek fundraising efforts! E.g. donate \$25 and receive an attractive dragonfly "pin." Remember the fly is more about attracting humans than fish!



## STREAMSIDE

*By Tim Wade*

As the days get longer and the sun shines higher and brighter with the coming of spring, many an angler's thoughts turn to the early hatches of spring and the many days of fishing through summer and fall that lie ahead, before winter snow and ice, once again, blankets much of Wyoming's landscape.

That's why fishing in the spring is such a pleasure. Not only can one romp through the outdoors without having to skinny ski or snowshoe to get wherever, as spring progressively warms up, one can also fish his favorite tailwaters and freestone rivers and creeks, without much fear of frostbite. Correction: Some of the time, one can do these things during a Wyoming spring.

Spring means great hatches of midges, tiny blue-winged olive mayflies, winter stoneflies, and caddis. These hatches provide myself and other anglers the chance to wade or float the world-renowned tail waters or freestone rivers in Wyoming, enjoying the chance to fish dries, nymphs or streamers in a day, while obtaining Vitamin D and exercise in the process.

Tailwaters are good bets when thinking spring fishing. Water temperatures are consistent most of the time, thanks to the dam upstream. Tailwaters are usually very fertile because they collect nitrogen, minerals and organic matter, which is then dispersed downstream, feeding a fishery. This fertility and constant water temperature has trout feeding on something most of the time.

Tailwaters in Wyoming are noted for the abundance of aquatic invertebrates that inhabit them. Besides the insects mentioned in the hatches, bottom dwellers, like scuds, sowbugs, crane fly larvae, mayfly and stonefly nymphs, and the larvae of midges and caddis are readily available. Aquatic worms and leeches round out the banquet table.

Imitations of these insects are simple and can easily be organized into two medium-sized fly boxes. Should you not know what flies are needed, or how to use them, let me share what I keep in my Guide boxes for everyday consistency when fishing a tailwater.

My nymph, or wet fly box, contains the following; San Juan Worm (orange, chamois, red, wine), Zebra midge (beaded and non-beaded, black, red, purple), scuds (olive, pink, orange), sowbug (gray, olive, tan, purple), woolly bugger (weighted and non, black, olive, purple, brown), pheasant tail (beaded and non), North Fork Special (black, tan), Hare's ear (natural, olive, black). Midge sizes:14-24, Woolly buggers 4-10, the rest in the collection are 12-20.

Nymphs should be fished dead drift under an indicator or behind a dry fly and set at a certain depth - 15" to 3 feet is fine in most nymphing situations. Presentation is made upstream into the current, giving the nymph time to sink quickly and get in the trout zone.

Trout can be lazy feeders in tailwaters. They don't have to move to eat, if you understand that. It's imperative, especially when using smaller wet flies, they get into the zone right away, giving one of the trout residing there plenty of time to suck up your offering

Manageable casts when nymphing should be no further than three times your rod length.

The angler has to make line adjustments (aka: mending) with rod and line as soon as the fly enters the water. Line management is used to avoid all drag on the leader system to allow the fly to retain the intended drift path through the zone. When the indicator or dry fly stops, spins or dips on its drift, set the hook! It's a fish!

My dry fly box is comprised of dry and not so dry emerger and cripple patterns: Parachute Adams (gray, olive, hare's ear, black, purple), snowshoe sparkle dun (black, rust, cream, olive, purple), sparkle dun (olive, gray, black, rust, purple, cream), Freaking midge, (red, black, olive, purple), Tim's bow-tie midge (black), Griffith's gnat and elk hair caddis (black, olive, brown). Sizes: 16-24.

Spring dry fly fishing comes in spurts and seems to occur on those blustery, cloudy days when winter refuses to yield to spring. However, the hatches can be unbelievable in numbers on the water and in the air. Trout are glutinous. Big trout will muscle smaller trout out of the way to gulp helpless pods of blue winged olives, or midges trying to emerge in the surface.

Fishing is unbelievable. This is why we endured December through March! To have not just one, but lots of "lost count" days to catch during these spring hatch episodes is a blessing.

Most of the dry flies in my Guide box will match whatever spring hatch you encounter, from midges to winter stones, whether on a tailwater or freestone river. Match color and size, then present it the way you think the trout wants it. No drag is good. Use the techniques discussed in the nymph section to assist your dry fly presentation. I use snowshoe sparkle duns in various colors most of the time during one of these blitz hatches and score well.

Spring would not be complete without the annual spawning runs of rainbows and native

cutthroat in the spring, prior to the flush of late spring snowmelt. Fishing over spawning trout or wading through their beds is not recommended – ever – and is highly frowned upon by ethical sportsmen.

It is okay to fish and catch a migrating trout in the process. Usually these trout come from reservoirs and have grown fat sucking up plankton, crayfish and smaller trout through the winter. When they enter the river systems, the chance to hook a huge rainbow or cutthroat for a picture mount improves substantially.

Catching fish while they are moving upstream prior to spawning is the Rocky Mountain version of Steelheading. Big nymphs or slinky streamers are used in the pursuit of rainbows that can weigh in excess of 5 pounds and cutthroat that are fat 3 pounders.

While trout spawn in tailwaters, the experience isn't the same unless it is on the upstream, undammed version of itself. Flies used in freestone rivers in the spring are generally much larger than those used below a dam and are tied to imitate stonefly nymphs.

Nymphs commonly used in Wyoming freestone waters – and also in my fly boxes are: Bitch Creek (weighted), Halfback (weighted, beaded or non), Girdle bug, yuk bug (cone-head and non), North Fork Special, double-beaded stone, epoxy back stone, BH Prince nymph, BH Pheasant tail and BH hare's ear. Bloody Mary's, Copper John and Purple Prince's work well as droppers.

Fish the larger nymphs as you would on a tailwater with one exception. Leave no rock or still water pocket unturned as you ply the water. Start close and work your way out into the river. It is not uncommon to find some of the larger fish in the most amazing places during the spring spawning runs.

Streamers run the gamut, but the ubiquitous wooly bugger gets the job done. It is tied in a hundred different ways. It pays to carry plenty of local versions of this versatile fly. Zonkers, Zuddlers, Slump busters, Orange blossoms, Clouser minnows and Bailey's muddler minnow work well, too.

Streamers are fished downstream and across, usually with a sinking fly line, then worked against the current to create a wounded minnow effect as the fly is worked back to the angler. They can also be dead-drifted under and indicator and jigged up and down as the fly comes back with the current.

Leadering up is also advised. Ten, even twelve pound tippet is not too heavy when using larger flies and hooking larger trout. Rods also break this time of year when The Run is on. Forget about light fly rods on the Platte, for instance. Six weights and larger should be used to land these mature fish quickly and easily, so they can be released unharmed to spawn.

As mentioned, most of these fish are returning wild trout, spawned in the river you are fishing and returning to spawn again. Wyoming is more wild than civilized, thank the Lord, and our trout, whether native or introduced, deserve the right to reproduce and remain wild. God, I love spring.

## Lake Taneycomo Trout Habitat Improvements

Mike Allen, Shane Bush, Christin McLemore, Andy Austin and staff from SW Fisheries worked together to complete a long awaited habitat improvement project in the upper mile of Lake Taneycomo. The project was undertaken because this area of the lake lacked good habitat for game fish. During a majority of the fishing seasons, anglers crowded around the Shepherd of the Hills hatchery outlets to fish. Utilizing funding from the Table Rock Lake National Fish Habitat Initiative Project and low water levels due to repairs on Powersite Dam, large boulders were placed to provide additional fish habitat and additional places for anglers to fish. Boulders were placed in clusters of three to five, in an upstream facing triangle to give fish holding cover and provide water velocity differences to improve feeding lanes.

A total of 71 habitat clusters were placed from Hatchery Outlet One to the Shepherd of the Hills boat ramp. The structures were placed in areas away from the navigational channel to provide a good boating path. A sign warning boaters of new obstacles was placed at the lower end of the project area and smaller signs will be placed at additional areas to notify boaters and anglers of the locations of the new structures.

The project was conducted during low water generation, which is when the majority of anglers fish this area. Many anglers were present to observe the project and an overwhelming number of them were very pleased to see the habitat being installed. Within hours, trout anglers were utilizing the structures, spreading the fishing pressure out and away from the outlets, and many were catching fish immediately.

## Ozark Fly Fishers Calendar of Events

*January 4, 2012 Members Only Class* - Powder Valley 7:00 pm (contact Mike Ott)

*January 21, 2012 Annual Ozark Fly Fishers Banquet*

*January 24, 2012 THE 25 BEST FLIES FOR MISSOURI TROUT*- Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park \$6 per person

*January 25, 2012 Gone Fishing Seminar by Phil Lilly* - Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park \$6 per person

*February 1, 2012 Members Only Class* - Powder Valley 7:00 pm (contact Mike Ott)

*February 7, 2012 Board Meeting* - 3530 Greenwood Blvd., Maplewood Mo, 63143

*February 10 – 11, 2012 FYAO* – Monauk (contact Mark Thalhammer)

*February 18, 2012 All Day Meeting with DavyWotton* – Creve Coeur Gov't Center ( contact Bob Zagar)

*March 6, 2012 Board Meeting* - 3530 Greenwood Blvd., Maplewood Mo, 63143

*March 7, 2012 Members Only Class* - Powder Valley 7:00 pm (contact Mike Ott)

*March 15, 2012 READING THE WATER FOR TROUT*- Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park \$6 per person

*March 22, 2012 General Membership Meeting* – Tivoli Theater "Fly fishing Film Tour"

*March 22 – 24, 2012 Sowbug Roundup* – Mountain Home, Arkansas

*March 31, 2012 Chili Tie In:* Marlin's clubhouse at: Countrylane Woods II

*April 14, 2012 Trivia Night* – Wild Acres Park (contact Malcolm Royse)

*April 26, 2012 Genral Membership Meeting* - Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park

*April 21, 2012 Mill Creek WQM* – (contact Bill Leslie)

*April 27 & 28 Current River WQM and Anglers' Introductory WQM Workshop*– (contact Scott Darrough)

*May 18 – 19 Montauk Summer Outing* - (contact Mark Thalhammer)

*June 23, 2012 Mill Creek WQM* – (contact Bill Leslie)

*July 13-14 (4<sup>th</sup> Annual WQM Outing)* – Montauk (contact Scott Darrough)

*August 25, 45th Annual Operation Clean Stream* (contact Scott Darrough)

*September 13 – 16 Taneycomo Outing* (contact Mark Thalhammer)

*September 15, 2012 Mill Creek WQM* – (contact Bill Leslie)

*October 13, 2012 Current River WQM* – (contact Scott Darrough)

*October 20, 2012 Fall Chili Tie – In* (contact Mark Thalhammer)

*November 9-11 Bennett Spring C&R* (contact Mark Thalhammer)

## High Sticking Dry Flies by John Berry

As time passes I spend more and more time fishing dry flies. When I first started fishing them I was overwhelmed. The casting was fussy and had to be precise. The flies were so tiny that they were almost impossible to see. Success did not come easy but I eventually began to catch fish by traditional dry fly methods. I had a lot of trouble seeing the fly if I was fishing over twenty feet of line. One day I was high sticking nymphs when I had a brainstorm, high sticking dry flies. I was catching fish that were just a few feet from my body. Then a fish hit my strike indicator. I tied on an elk hair caddis and fished the same water that I had been nymphing. I only had a couple of feet of fly line out and I fished it just like I would a nymph. I flicked the fly up stream and let it drift down. It went about five feet and a nice rainbow slammed it. I landed that one and quickly revived the fly with dry fly crystals. Again I flicked the fly upstream and let it drift down. This time it went ten feet before an eighteen-inch cutthroat rose from the depths and nailed it. I stood in that riffle and caught a dozen good fish. The technique is simple and effective.

This is contrary to everything that my brother Dan does. He prefers seventy-foot casts over glass smooth water with tiny flies. He sets the hook when he sees a rise near where he thinks the fly is. You cannot see a size 18 fly that is seventy feet away.

High sticking gives you three things, you see the fly, you can make an effective presentation, and you can better control the line. You can see the fly because it is only a few feet from you. With this method I can easily fish dries as small as a 20 or smaller. You make an effective presentation by just flicking the fly up stream to for a soft landing. Since there is nothing touching the water except the fly it is easy to achieve a perfect drift when you do not have to deal with complex currents. The shorter line enhances line control because you can easily set the hook at any part of the drift because there is no slack in the line.

I prefer to use this method when fishing riffles. I particularly like fast riffles that run over gravel and have a drop off. The broken surface helps to conceal my movements and allows me to get very close to fish. The greater water speed does not allow the trout to study the fly. He must decide whether to take the offering very quickly and without hesitation. Finally riffles are generally loaded with fish making them more productive. Since I fish heavy water I have to fish flies that can handle the current. I favor elk hair caddis and Wulff patterns because they float like corks. Hoppers and power ants work well later in the year after the major hatches are gone.

The next you notice some top water action try a method that is easy and effective, high sticking.

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## Ozark Fly Fishers Objectives

Founded 1971

- *To promote fly fishing as the most sportsmanlike and enjoyable way of fishing and the method most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our game fish.*
- *To practice conservation of natural resources and to support efforts for environmental quality and pollution control.*
- *To provide advice, education, and assistance to promote the art of fly fishing.*
- *To demonstrate applied techniques in fly fishing, tying, casting and related subjects*

Ozark Fly Fishers meet at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Queeny Park Rec Center (unless noted differently – see Calendar)



### Officers:

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**Vice President** : Bob Zagar  
**Secretary** : Patti Hummert  
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